

**AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of port type agnostic proxy support for web services intermediaries, the method comprising:

receiving in a web services intermediary a request for execution of a web services operation, wherein;

the web services intermediary includes a proxy, wherein no configuration data available to the proxy describes an endpoint of the target service and the requester submits requests for operations in port types completely unknown to the intermediary; and

the request includes parametric information from which an endpoint for a target service that supports the operation is can be identified;

identifying, by the web services intermediary in dependence upon the parametric data, the endpoint for a target service that supports the operation;

creating, by the web services intermediary, a target service request for execution of the operation on the target service, further comprising:

composing the request in a data structure useful in a binding-neutral interface; and

calling the binding-neutral interface, passing the request as a call parameter; and

issuing, by the web services intermediary, the target service request to the target service.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the target service request as created and issued to the target service bears unexamined and unmodified message contents of the request received in the web services intermediary.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying to a requester an endpoint of the web services intermediary as an endpoint that supports the operation.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the parametric information includes a port type for the operation.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying, in dependence upon the parametric information, the endpoint for a target service that supports the operation further comprises:

identifying, in dependence upon the parametric information, a multiplicity of endpoints of target services that support the operation; and

selecting one endpoint from the multiplicity of endpoints in accordance with selection rules.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein:

the parametric information includes a port type for the operation, and

identifying, in dependence upon the parametric information, a multiplicity of endpoints of target services that support the operation comprises identifying from a registry, in dependence upon the port type, a multiplicity of target services for the port type.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein selecting one endpoint from the multiplicity of endpoints further comprises selecting one endpoint from the multiplicity of endpoints in accordance with selection rules for load balancing among target services.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein issuing the target service request to the target service comprises calling one or more member methods in a binding-neutral interface.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving in the intermediary a response from the target service;

creating in the intermediary, in dependence upon the response from the target service, a response from the intermediary; and

returning the response from the intermediary to the requesting client.

Claims 11-30. (Canceled)